

Made happy After Many Years of
Grief

"Thirteen years since he died, an' I've only half kept my promise 'bout lookin' after that wife and little girl, Prudy, of his! I've been a racin' after money, but my nigh raced me down." The gray, but rather fine-looking man by a lonely ranch fireside in Colorado, brought his hand down with emphasis on the table beside him.

"I'll just write her a letter, a Valentine letter. Jack's girl, Prudy, must be sixteen now. I wonder what she looks like?"

In an inland Michigan town a young girl, pale and slight was busily engaged in decorative painting. She, who never received valentines, never had received one, was making some very beautiful ones "to order." This was Prudy Bristow's one gift, an eye for the beautiful and a genius for expressing it. Her invalid mother put the work together when the painting was dry; and their "Christmas, Valentine, and Easter Work" brought them quite an income.

The doctor had said that her mother might get better, if she could go West to a mountainous country. That, "if" meant obstacles that could not be overcome, thought Prudy, sighing deeply as she noted the failing strength of the dear, faithful little mother! She could not remember her father; he died in infancy, and she was brought up by a then rich, and poor again. When he was prosperous he had sent money for the home which they were afterwards obliged to sell; and when in rapidly falling health he left his wife for "one more venture" in the direction of independence she never expected to see him again. He died in the mining camp of Joe Horton, or "Lucky Joe" as his comrades called him. Subsequently, she had been married, and had still remained, and altogether forgetful of his promise to "marry Jack."

Straightaway Joe Horton rode to Denver and sent the widow a check for one hundred dollars! This paid some small debts and gave a sense of relief which he had not felt for some time. Still Joe was not satisfied. He had a warm, hearty, generous heart under an unclouded exterior, "but blamed if I know what to do when wimmen and girls are concerned. Ther's my place down near Georgetown; they might live in it here; purly a little spot as there is in Colorado! Ther's a Mary Ellen Sanders Jim Sanders gal in Placerville—glad of chance to come an' work for them. I'll write her as soon as I find out."

Then Joe hesitated and pondered, and then he wrote the letter:

'You're a party little place down by
 'I've got ten that I'll rent you on easy
 terms, very easy terms. You may
 have the whole outfit of it. Things are
 in prime order, or will be when you
 get here, for of course you are comin'!
 Start just as soon as you git ready. The
 enclosed check is to pay your way, an'
 my cousin's daughter will be thar to
 do all the heavy work and make things
 pleasant for you. My Ellen, my
 Ellen Saunders is her name, is a boss
 fine cook and gen'ral worker, an' you'll
 like her first rate. Ther's the neighbors,
 nice people, livin' close to this place.
 Minnie, an' it's a plum daisy! This
 paper in here is the deed for the whol'
 I jaint a doin' of things by

Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs, who were to be their near neighbors, Joe and Miry Ellen Saunders were at the train to meet them. Mrs. Bristow had borne the fatigue of the long journey well. The pleasant anticipation of new scenes and the hope of getting better had given her an endurance unexpected. Prudy was radiantly happy. She longed to pain: every inch of the way that had been traversed, paint it in a great, glorious valentine and give it to Joe.

JOHN T. SMITH.
Middletown Del.

Editor Stead may as well understand
once for all that "if Christ came to
Chicago" he would not make so much
 fuss about it as Stead did.

"Miss Polly," stammered the young man, blushing violently. Miss Polly—
o—to—d'ye—do you think you could learn
o—to—to care for me—in time, I
mean, in time, of course, Miss Polly?
"I'm afraid," answered Miss Polly re-
spectively, "that I can't do it in time.
But I might in eternity."

and a faithful discharge of mutual, or the firm will become bankrupt not only in a business way, but in the far more important matters of love and happiness. The young man who enters the married state ought to be willing and able to maintain a home of his own, to bid himself to earn its support, to be capable of sacrifice and exertion, and to shift for no cause, save the exceptional and inexorable one of necessity, its burdens on the other shoulders. He

thirty two out of the thirty-three
chinamen, but as to the thirty-third he
may not be deceived, as that particu-
lar Celestial has but one eye.—N. Y.
1877.

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